

MASS INTENTIONS

ALL MASSES ARE AT ST THOMAS'S CHURCH UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED

Sunday 21st February

FIRST SUNDAY of LENT

6:00pm (Sat)	Holy Souls
8:00am	Good health for Kathleen Dallas
9:15am	Fr Paul Sanders RIP
11:15am	John Anthony Gordon RIP & Baby Niamh Olivia Glynn RIP
6:00pm	People of the Parish
9:30am <i>Oxford</i>	Holy Souls
9:30am <i>Borough Green</i>	Archie Payne RIP
11:00am <i>West Kingsdown</i>	Mary Burt RIP

Monday 22nd The CHAIR of S PETER the APOSTLE

8:00am	Chiara Mascarenhas RIP
(6:00pm)	Honor Margaret Sherrott RIP)

Tuesday 23rd Feria

9:30am	Good health for Charlie Reid
(6:00pm)	Holy Souls)

Wednesday 24th

8:00am	Barbara De 'Haviland RIP
10:00am <i>Oxford</i>	Holy Souls

Thursday 25th Feria (Lent Fast Day)

10:00am <i>Borough Green</i>	Holy Souls
12:00noon	Holy Souls

Friday 26th Feria

8:00am	Julia Pert
10:00am <i>West Kingsdown</i>	Pat McCoy RIP & comfort of her family

Saturday 27th Feria

9:30am	Holy Souls
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Sunday 28th February

SECOND SUNDAY of LENT

6:00pm (Sat)	Holy Souls
8:00am	People of the Parish
9:15am	Fr Deacon Neil Philipson
11:15am	George Rizza RIP
6:00pm	Holy Souls
9:30am <i>Oxford</i>	Holy Souls
9:30am <i>Borough Green</i>	Borough Green's Parishioners
11:00am <i>West Kingsdown</i>	Doris Spellacy RIP

Please pray

- for God's help in our prayer, fasting, and almsgiving this Lent, despite the pandemic;
- for the Sick, especially in our parish and those suffering from COVID 19;
- for those in developing countries without access to safe water, and for CAFOD and those agencies which assist them.

OTHER NOTICES

Support for Malawi

If you wish to send some money to Fr Boni's diocese in Malawi, to support their COVID relief or for other purposes, contact Caroline Stockmann (caroline.stockmann@gmail.com) by today (Sunday) at the latest. She will coordinate a single bank transfer and pay the bank intercontinental transfer charges.

A lifeline for troubled marriages

During the lockdown many marriages are facing the strain. Recently one couple in the parish attended a Retrouvaille Marriage Rescue weekend (online), and they say that it "has made a huge difference to us".

The next one is on 25th - 28th February: see <https://retrouvaille.co.uk>. The couple would be more than happy to talk to anyone who would like more information (contact them through Fr David or Magda). They say that people don't have to wait until they are in trouble; it is hugely valuable for people who want happier marriages.

Family Zoom Quiz to raise funds for Kent refugees

Another Parish Zoom Quiz next Sunday, 7:00 - 8:00pm, hosted by Gina Hartnett. This will be a fun inclusive event for everyone, young and old, in the Parish to join in via Zoom. This will be a Zoom based social activity which may seem a bit strange to some of you. If you are unfamiliar with Zoom, no worries we can help you to set it up.

The number of refugees reaching Kent by boat was four times greater in 2020 than 2019. At least 8,400 people made the crossing in 2020 and more than 300 have died since 1999. Our own SVP works with some of these refugees. Kathy Gonzalez will give a short presentation about the growing needs in this area.

To get the Zoom link to join the quiz and details about how to donate please email ben.andradi@icloud.com. Please join; it will be a fun for all the family and the whole event will take an hour.

Ben Andradi

PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY, SEVENOAKS

www.sevrccparish.org.uk 01732 454177

Today's Mass Readings: First Sunday of Lent

Genesis 9: 8-15; Psalm 24; 1 Peter 3: 18-22; Mark 1: 12-15

First Reading: After the flood, God places a rainbow in the clouds as a sign of his covenant with his people. The flood of Noah is portrayed as being like a new creation, and this is what happens in Baptism. As the Prayer over the Water in the Rite of Baptism puts it (addressing God): "The waters of the great flood you made a sign of the waters of Baptism, that make an end of sin and a new beginning of goodness".

The **Psalm** picks up on the idea of God's covenant with us, and what it means in practice.

The **Second Reading** makes two points. First, the saving waters of Noah's flood prefigure the saving waters of Baptism. Secondly, the ark prefigures the believing community (ie the Church); it is only if we are in the Church (the ark) that we can be sure of being saved.

The **Gospel** on the First Sunday of Lent is always the account of Jesus' forty days in the wilderness and His temptation by the Devil. This sets the length and the abstinence and penance of the season of Lent.

Interestingly, it is the Spirit who drove Jesus out into the wilderness. Although the Son of God, the human Jesus had to struggle against the Devil and be tested in this way.

Fr David

Notices

Second Collection

The second collection is for Poor Parishes in the Archdiocese. Please put your donation in the Second Collection (next to the First Collection box/plate) or - at St Thomas's - use the contactless device in the Entrance. Some of the small parishes have been badly affected by the lack of income in the pandemic, so this Fund is needed more than ever.

LENT

Pope Francis' Message for Lent 2021

This accompanies Fr David's Message in his weekly email.

Stations of the Cross in Lent

Because of the COVID risks and the likely small numbers attending, there will not be public Stations of the Cross this Lent in any of the churches. Instead we have prepared an online Stations of the Cross, with music by some of our singers and pictures of the Stations in the four churches, which you can view and pray in your own time.

Just go to the Daily Mass link on the Parish website (<http://www.sevrccparish.org.uk>).

Lent Course: 'No Greater Love'

Our parish Lenten programme is 'No Greater Love: A biblical walk through Christ's Passion'. The course will be every Tuesday evening over Zoom. To register or enquire about the course please contact Deacon Neil on neilphilipson@rcaos.org.uk.

Lenten resources

Visit <https://aec.rcaos.org.uk/latest/lent-possibilities> for various resources for reflection and meditation this Lent, for families as well as adults and individuals, provided by the

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diocesan Agency for Evangelization & Catechesis.

Also the diocesan Spirituality Commission is offering a Retreat for Lent, which you can follow in your own home. Each week there is a short video reflection, prayer materials and other resources, to help you make the best use of whatever time and opportunity you may have during your week. Click on <http://www.southwarkdsc.org.uk/followme>.

Confessions

The priests can hear Confessions as long as COVID precautions are taken, and this may well mean outside. You can approach the priest if there is plenty of time before Mass but more likely after Mass. Alternatively, contact either Fr David or Fr Paul to make an appointment.

CAFOD Fast Day

This Friday is the CAFOD Lent Fast Day.

In an extremely remote and mountainous region of Ethiopia a young man, Abdella, has to spend 10 hours each day to find water for his family. He has no time to develop his education or training so as to find a job to sustain him and his family. To help end water poverty and provide other vital support to poor communities in Africa, South America and the Far East, please donate:

- using the CAFOD envelopes, available with the Newsletters. Please use these especially if you can Gift Aid your donation, and put your donation to CAFOD in next Sunday's Second Collection;
- online to cafod.org.uk/give;
- by texting LENT to 704560 to donate £10 (you can text multiple times).

Thank you for your generosity.

John Foley